

## Chapter MPSW 8

### CONTINUING EDUCATION

**MPSW 8.02** Continuing education requirements for credential holders.  
**MPSW 8.03** Continuing education programs.

**MPSW 8.04** Compliance.

**Note:** Chapter SFC 8 was renumbered ch. MPSW 8 under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 1., Stats., and corrections made under s. 13.93 (2m) (b) 7., Stats., [Register October 2002 No. 562](#).

**MPSW 8.02 Continuing education requirements for credential holders.** (1) Unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (7), every social worker, advanced practice social worker, independent social worker, and clinical social worker shall complete at least 30 education hours in each 2-year credentialing period which begins on March 1 of each odd-numbered year as specified in s. [457.20 \(2\)](#), Stats., and shall verify compliance as part of his or her application for credential renewal.

(a) The 30 continuing education hours shall be in courses and programs specified in this chapter.

(b) Of the 30 required hours, at least 4 hours shall be in the subject area of social work ethics and boundaries. The section may require that up to 2 continuing education hours in each 2-year credentialing period be acquired within other specified topic areas. Notice of any such requirement will be published in the regulatory digest that is mailed to all credential holders.

(c) In this chapter “continuing education hour” or “CEH” means a period of continuing education consisting of not less than 50 minutes.

(2) Continuing education hours shall apply only to the credentialing period in which the hours are acquired. A credential holder who applies for renewal after the renewal date specified in s. [457.20 \(2\)](#), Stats., shall submit proof to the section that he or she has completed at least 30 continuing education hours during the 2 years immediately preceding the date of application for renewal and meet the requirements for late renewal specified in s. [440.08 \(3\)](#), Stats. Continuing education hours submitted to satisfy this requirement for late renewal shall not be used to satisfy continuing education requirements for a subsequent renewal.

(3) Every credential holder shall retain original documents showing attendance at programs and completion of self-developed programs for at least 4 years from the time that credit is claimed for the continuing education program. At the request of the section, credential holders shall deliver their original documents to the section.

(4) Unless granted a postponement or waiver under sub. (7), a credential holder who fails to meet continuing education requirements by the renewal deadline shall cease and desist from using a social worker title protected under ch. [457](#), Stats., and if licensed as a clinical social worker, shall cease practice as a clinical social worker.

(5) During the time between initial certification or licensure and commencement of a full 2-year credentialing period, a new credential holder shall not be required to meet continuing education requirements for the first renewal of his or her credential, except that a person who was certified prior to November 1, 2002 and initially licensed on November 1, 2002 shall meet the continuing education requirement as if he or she had continued under the preceding certification.

(6) Applicants from other states applying under s. [457.15 \(1\)](#), Stats., shall submit proof of completion of at least 30 continuing education hours substantially meeting the requirements of this chapter within the 2-year credentialing period prior to application.

(7) A credential holder may apply to the section for a postponement or waiver of the requirements of this chapter on grounds of prolonged illness or disability, or on other grounds constituting extreme hardship. The section shall consider each application individually on its merits, and the section may grant a postponement, partial waiver or total waiver as deemed appropriate in the circumstances.

(8) The social worker section may grant an exemption from the requirements of this chapter to a credential holder who certifies to the section that he or she has permanently retired and no longer uses a social worker title protected under ch. [457](#), Stats. in any professional practice and, if licensed as a clinical social worker, no longer practices as a clinical social worker.

(9) A credential holder who has been granted an exemption from the requirements of this chapter based on retirement from the active practice of social work may not return to the active practice of social work without submitting evidence satisfactory to the section that the holder completed at least 30 continuing education hours during the 2 years immediately preceding the date of application to return to active practice and meets the requirements for late renewal specified in s. [440.08](#), Stats.

**History:** Cr. [Register, May, 1999, No. 521](#), eff. 6-1-99; am. (1) (intro.), (a) and (c), (2), (6) and (9), [Register, January, 2001, No. 541](#), eff. 2-1-01; [CR 02-105](#): am. (1) (b) and (2) to (9), [Register October 2002 No. 562](#), eff. 11-1-02; [CR 05-120](#): am. (1) [Register September 2006 No. 609](#), eff. 10-1-06.

#### **MPSW 8.03 Continuing education programs.**

(1) The social worker section does not pre-approve continuing education programs. The social worker section will accept for continuing education credit programs consisting of relevant subject matter taught by qualified presenters. The acceptability of a continuing education program depends on the subject matter of the program rather than the program's title. A continuing education program may be used to satisfy the requirements of this chapter if the subject matter of the continuing education program is one or more of the following:

- (a) Social work practice, knowledge and skills.
- (b) A field or subject area allied with and relevant to the practice of social work.
- (c) Theories and concepts of human behavior and the social environment.
- (d) Social work research, social policy and program evaluation, or social work practice evaluation.
- (e) Social policy and program administration or management.
- (f) Social work ethics. A program in social work ethics should address one or more of the topics in ch. [MPSW 20](#).
- (g) Professional boundaries.
- (h) A subject of current importance as designated by the section.

(1m) Acceptable sponsoring organizations include, but are not limited to:

- (a) Local or national professional social work associations.
- (b) Accredited college and university schools of social work.
- (c) Public and private agencies that provide in-house training and development programs which meet agency mission requirements.
- (d) Any continuing education program approved, sponsored or co-sponsored by a presenter approved by the Committee for the

Approval of Continuing Education Sponsors of the American Psychological Association.

(e) Any educational programs recognized as approved at the time of attendance as “Category I” continuing education programs by the Council on Medical Education of the American Medical Association or the American Osteopathic Association.

(f) Any educational programs recognized under s. [MPSW 14.04](#) or [19.02](#).

(2) A continuing education program may take any of the following forms, with credit for relevant subject matter granted as follows:

(a) Formal presentations of relevant professional material at seminars, workshops, programs or institutes, which may include formal presentation and directed discussion of videotaped material: 1 CEH per hour of continuing education for attendees, 2 CEHs per hour of continuing education for presenters, but no additional CEHs will be granted for subsequent presentations of the same material.

(b) University, college or vocational technical adult education courses, which may include formal presentation and directed discussion of videotaped instruction: 10 CEHs per semester credit or 6.6 CEHs per quarter credit for students, 20 CEHs per semester hour or 13.2 CEHs per quarter hour for instructors, but no additional CEHs will be granted for subsequent presentations of the same material.

(c) Educational sessions at state and national conferences: 1 CEH per hour of continuing education for attendees; 2 CEHs per hour of continuing education for presenters, but no additional CEHs will be granted for subsequent presentations of the same material.

(d) Educational telephone network (ETN) courses: 1 CEH per hour of continuing education for attendees, 2 CEHs per hour of

continuing education for presenters, but no additional CEHs will be granted for subsequent presentations of the same material, and ETN courses may not be used to satisfy the social work ethics requirement.

(e) Interactive internet learning courses offered by an accredited university or preapproved by the ASWB: 1 CEH per .1 CEU (continuing education unit) of instruction or self-study courses approved by accredited college or university schools of social work, local or national professional social work organizations, or the association of social work boards, 1 CEH per credit completed, but no more than 21 total CEHs for interactive internet courses and self-study courses will be accepted in any 2 year credentialing period with a maximum of 10 CEHs for self-study courses and a maximum of 16 CEHs for internet courses. Self-study courses may not be used to satisfy the social work ethics requirement.

(g) Authorship of a published textbook or professional resource book: 20 CEHs.

(h) Authorship of a published chapter in a textbook or professional resource book, or a professional journal article: 8 CEHs.

(i) Development of alternative media, computer software, videotapes, or audiotapes: 8 CEHs.

**History:** Cr. [Register, May, 1999, No. 521](#), eff. 6-1-99; renum. (intro.) to be (1) (intro.) and (1) to (8) to be (1) (a) to (h), cr. (2), [Register, January, 2001, No. 541](#), eff. 2-1-01; [CR 02-105](#): am. (1) (intro.) and (f), (2) (intro.), (e) and (f), cr. (1m), [Register October 2002 No. 562](#), eff. 11-1-02; [CR 05-120](#): cr. (1m) (d) to (f), am. (2) (e), r. (2) (f) [Register September 2006 No. 609](#), eff. 10-1-06.

**MPSW 8.04 Compliance.** The section may conduct audits or investigations to determine compliance with this chapter by credential holders with this chapter.

**History:** Cr. [Register, May, 1999, No. 521](#), eff. 6-1-99; [CR 02-105](#): am. [Register October 2002 No. 562](#), eff. 11-1-02.